

that she made each one of us better, and because of her our community and our country have been immeasurably bettered as well.

### THE HONEST BUDGET RESOLUTION

#### HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 11, 1995*

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, while the Republicans advance their "Contract With America," Democrats will stay true to the oldest contract we have in this country: to disavow Government by gimmickry, and to govern in an open, honest, responsible way. Rather than rewriting the Constitution in a flash of ideological ink, it's time to live up to the principles of the Constitution itself.

So I am introducing House Resolution 33, the Honest Budget Resolution, and I am delighted that both the President and Senate Democratic leader TOM DASCHLE are joining me in supporting its passage. It says simply that before a balanced budget constitutional amendment can be sent to the States for debate, Congress must pass a plan to show exactly how we would balance the budget. Our States have a right to know. The people deserve a real plan of action—not just a bill of goods.

Democrats support balancing the budget as long as it's done honestly and responsibly. That's why we passed the largest deficit reduction package in history, without a single Republican vote. It was a \$500 billion down payment toward getting our fiscal house in order.

Republicans talk a good game about cutting the deficit, but actions speak louder than words. For years, they claimed that if they were in power, they could balance the budget. Now that they have the gavel, they're discovering what Democrats already knew, balancing the budget means tough choices. And the American people have a right to know what those choices will be.

After all, at the dawn of the 1980's, Republicans claimed they could give huge tax breaks to the wealthy, enact massive defense increases, and balance the Federal budget at the same time. The rhetoric didn't come close to the reality. Trickle down economics raised taxes on the middle class, exploded the deficit, and devastated our economy.

Today, that same fool's gold glimmers in the Republicans' eyes. More tax breaks for the wealthy; a tougher tax burden on hard-working, middle-class families. More space invaders defense systems; less support for crucial needs here at home. Reaganomics was a catastrophe in 1981, and it won't work in 1995.

When the Republicans bring their balanced budget amendment before the House, they must expect more from Democrats than blind faith without real proof. Democrats will demand that they give us facts, not fiction. Seniors have a right to know if Social Security or Medicare will be on the chopping block. Veterans have a right to know if their pensions will be slashed. Parents have a right to know if school funding or college loans will evaporate. Farmers have a right to know if Government will abandon its mission to help them feed our Nation.

It's time for the Republicans to put their money where their mouth is. The honest budget bill will force them to do that, once and for all.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE SELECT EXPANSION ACT OF 1995

#### HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 11, 1995*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a proposal to expand and make permanent the Medicare Select Program. My colleague, Senator CHAFEE will be introducing an identical proposal in the Senate today as well.

The Medicare Select Program is currently a demonstration project that operates in only 15 States. It provides America's senior citizens with a Medigap managed care option. The program has been extremely successful. There are currently over 450,000 individuals enrolled in Medicare select policies. These individuals are enjoying premium savings over traditional fee-for-service Medigap policies that range from 10 to 37 percent. In real world terms, these reduced premiums translate into savings of up to \$25 a month or \$300 a year. This is obviously a significant savings for individuals on fixed incomes.

In addition, these policies are proving to be among the highest quality products available in the Medigap market today. In August 1994, Consumer Reports rated the top Medigap insurers nationwide. Eight of the top rated products were Medicare select plans. To date, there have been no reported abuses or problems with the Medicare Select Program.

This program also enjoys broad bipartisan support. Last year, 239 members cosponsored legislation to extend the program. In addition, the National Governors Association, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, National Conference of State Legislatures, Families USA, and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security, and Medicare support expanding and making this program permanent.

The savings and benefits associated with the Medicare Select Program should be available to all of America's senior citizens. By expanding the program and making it permanent, Medicare select products will become much more broadly available and hundreds of thousands of seniors will, for the first time, be able to recognize the savings current participants in the program enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare select is now set to expire at the end of June. If this Congress does not move quickly to enact this legislation, America's senior citizens will lose access to one of the most successful programs in recent history. I strongly encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and look forward to providing seniors continued access to this very important program.

### 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MAUMEE

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 11, 1995*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today in honor of the 175th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church located in Ohio's 9th district.

Beginning on January 9, 1820, with the settlement of 11 pioneers as charter members, the contributions of the First Presbyterian Church have stretched through a rich and diverse history. Built on a site that was once used to house a British battery, the founders of Maumee, Ohio's First Presbyterian Church began a mission to provide spiritual guidance and sustenance that continues today.

Like all churches, First Presbyterian's greatest asset and resource is her congregation. Even as Maumee's prosperity began to shift to the neighboring city of Toledo and membership was declining rapidly, the church members continued their mission. In 1870, when it became impossible to meet the pastor's salary of \$900 and he was subsequently transferred to a larger parish, First Presbyterian's congregation pulled together and raised the resources necessary to maintain and continue the church's ministry.

As everyone in this historic Chamber knows, America's greatest strength is her communities and their willingness to contribute in times of national need and emergency. In keeping with this tradition and beginning with the Civil War, and continuing with World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict and Vietnam, the church made innumerable and immeasurable contributions from her congregation and her ministry. Now, this proud history and tradition has become the wellspring of the church's continuing efforts to respond to today's challenges with a new era of service and devotion.

As the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Maumee begins to respond to new challenges and create tomorrow's history, let us remember the contributions of its first 175 years—and congratulate them on their willingness to serve their community, their country, and their fellow man.

### SALUTE TO FRANCIS SORRENTINO

#### HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 11, 1995*

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Francis "Frank" Sorrentino, who is retiring from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDot) after 34 years of distinguished and dedicated service.

Mr. Sorrentino, who received both his BSCE and MSCE from Drexel University in Philadelphia, has served for the past 5 years as the assistant district engineer for services in engineering district 6-0. The services unit has provided support activities for all of the PennDot design, construction and maintenance activities in the district 6-0 jurisdiction of bucks,